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ORIGINAL SIN PART THREE

WOLVERINE ORIGINS

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The mutant Wolverine has spent a century fighting those who would manipulate him for his unique powers—razor-sharp claws, heightened senses, and a healing factor capable of miracles. After repeated brainwashing, torture, and reprogramming, Wolverine's past was as much a mystery to him as to anyone. With those long-lost memories finally returned to him, Wolverine has set out on a mission to punish the conspirators who have wronged him.

Previously in ORIGINAL SIN...

Logan has tracked down and captured his long-lost son, Daken. Just like his father, Daken is vicious, ruthless, virtually unstoppable—and thanks to the influence of the mysterious Romulus, he wrongfully blames Logan for the death of his birth-mother. But now, with Daken suffering from temporary amnesia, Logan is in a unique position to help his son escape Romulus's control. And to help him do it, he's confronted the man who helped him sort through his own devastated psyche years ago. The same man he was programmed to kill when he first joined the X-Men: Professor Xavier.

Now Daken has fallen into the hands of long-time X-Men foe Sebastian Shaw, and his protégé, Miss Sinister. As she attempts to brainwash Daken for Shaw's nefarious ends, Sinister discovers that Daken's mind is rigged with a psychic bomb, set to detonate if a more powerful telepath were to try to break through his psychic defenses. A more powerful psychic...like Professor X.

Meanwhile, Logan and Xavier have been tricked into believing Shaw's old group, the Hellfire Club, is responsible for Daken's abduction. As Wolverine sneaks inside their Manhattan headquarters, he is discovered by the Hellfire Club's Inner Circle, who aren't too happy about the intrusion!

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"For what they've done, they will have to pay the ultimate price." - Ultimatum, November 2008

THIS IS QUITE A DEVIOUS LITTLE PLAN YOU'VE COME UP WITH, SHAW...

"...BUT WHAT ABOUT WHEN WOLVERINE FINDS OUT THAT THE HELLFIRE CLUB HAD *NOTHING TO DO* WITH HIS SON'S KIDNAPPING?"

HMM...AN INTERESTING QUESTION.

BUT EVEN *MORE* INTERESTING-- TO *ME*, AT LEAST...

"...IS THE QUESTION OF *WHO WILL BE LEFT ALIVE TO TELL HIM.*"

ORIGINAL SIN

PART III OF V

GOTTA POUR IT ON...

KEEP 'EM FROM COORDINATIN' THEIR EFFORTS...

FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT...

...SECOND.

KA-WROOOMM!

ON MY WAY HERE, I RIGGED THEIR *PSI-SHIELD GENERATOR* TO BLOW-- FOR A *COUPLE'A* REASONS:

FIRST, IT PROVIDES *ONE HELLUVA DISTRACTION...*

AN' SECOND...

SSSRAKK--!

YOU IN?

YES.

BUT YOU NEED TO GET OUT.

WHAT?

WHY?!

LOGAN, GET OUT OF THERE NOW!

WHAT DO THEY KNOW?

ABOUT DAKEN? NOTHING!

BAD NEWS, BUB...

THIS LITTLE GET-TOGETHER JUST WENT FROM *INTERROGATION* TO *EXECUTION.*

SNIKT!

THIS IS A SET-UP, LOGAN! SOMEHOW, THEY'VE BEEN CONVINCED THAT SHAW--

I KNOW.

ZZRAKKK!

YOU KNOW?!

THEN WHY ARE YOU--

AHH--!

...CLAUDINE?

...AHHHH...

WHAT--?

YOU...TOLD ME TO MONITOR THE SITUATION AT THE HELLFIRE CLUB--WELL, THE SITUATION JUST *CHANGED.*

SOMEBODY JUST KICKED OPEN THE PSYCHIC DOORS OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB.

THAT WOULD BE WOLVERINE.

AND IN SPECTACULAR FASHION, NO DOUBT...

LOOK AT YOU, SEBASTIAN--YOU ALMOST LOOK... *HAPPY.*

OH, *I AM,* CLAUDINE... I AM.

I FEEL LIKE A CHILD AT CHRISTMAS TIME, STARING AT A BEAUTIFUL PRESENT UNDER THE TREE WITH *MY NAME* ON IT...

"...WAITING FOR ME TO STRIP AWAY ITS WRAPPING AND REVEAL IT IN ALL ITS GLORY."

TELL ME, DO YOU HAVE ANY SENSE OF WHAT'S *HAPPENING* AT THE OLD CLUB?

ONE SENSE:

"FEAR."

I THINK YOU MADE HIM ANGRY.

NO...

HRRAAARRR!

ZZZSSAKKKT!

...I MADE HIM FOOLISH.

HLK--!

DIE YOU ANIMAL!

RRAAHHH!

CASTLEMERE, YOU'RE TOO CLOSE TOGETHER!

I CAN'T--!

YYAAAAAAHH!

OH, HELL WITH IT...

...YOU'RE A GONER, ANWAY.

AND I'LL BE DAMNED IF I'M GONNA WAIT AROUND FOR MY TURN!

HH-AK!

WELL, THAT'S *ONE* WAY TO GET A PROMOTION...

H--!

SNIKT!

DAAAMN...

THE HELLFIRE CLUB NEVER EXACTLY ***WAS*** A PLACE TO MAKE ***FRIENDS***...BUT THEY MUST REALLY BE AT EACH OTHERS' ***THROATS*** AROUND HERE.

DAMN YOU--!

GATE OF HEAVEN CEMETERY.

'LESS YOU WANNA END UP BACK IN A WHEELCHAIR...

...I SUGGEST YOU TAKE YOUR HANDS OFFA ME.

YOU *KNEW* THE HELLFIRE CLUB HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH DAKEN'S DISAPPEARANCE BUT YOU ATTACKED THEM *ANYWAY!*

BAD GUY'S A BAD GUY, CHARLES.

JUST 'CAUSE THEY'RE INNOCENT'A *ONE* THING DON'T MAKE 'EM *NOT* GUILTY OF *ANOTHER.*

"*A BAD GUY'S A BAD GUY*"...DO YOU REALLY *BELIEVE* THAT?

DAMN RIGHT I DO.

THEN WHY DO YOU BELIEVE DAKEN SHOULD BE SPARED?

SEE IF *THIS* RINGS ANY BELLS:

"*IT IS NOT THE GALLOWS THAT KILLS...*"

...IT IS THE *HANGMAN.*

YOU ARE A *WEAPON,* LOGAN; AND JUST LIKE *ANY* WEAPON, YOU ARE INCAPABLE OF SOLELY COMMITTING MURDER-- YOU HAVE SIMPLY BEEN *USED* TO DO SO.

YOU KNEW I WAS SENT TO KILL YOU-- *HOW?*

CAN YOU READ MY MIND?

ONLY FRAGMENTS, NOT AS A WHOLE. AND THAT'S... *REMARKABLE.*

"THEN HOW--?"

"I WAS *PSYCHICALLY MONITORING* YOU DURING YOUR BATTLE WITH *HULK* AND *THE WENDIGO.*"

DO YOU REALIZE THAT, EVEN WHEN YOU WERE DELIVERING THE *KILLING STROKE* TO THE *WENDIGO*...

...YOU NEVER *ONCE* THOUGHT ABOUT *KILLING* HIM?

BUT IT WAS IN *THAT MOMENT*, WHEN I INTENTIONALLY UNFOCUSED MY PSYCHIC AWARENESS, HOPING TO SIDE-STEP THE BARRAGE OF PSIONIC DISSONANCE THAT EMANATES FROM SUCH THNGS, THAT I HEARD IT.

HEARD *WHAT?*

MY NAME-- "*X.*" AND LINKED TO IT...

...ALMOST CASUALLY, FLOATING LIKE A CHILD'S BALLOON TIED TO HIS WRIST BY A STRING...

...WAS THE BLACKEST, MOST TERRIFYING CLUSTER OF PSYCHIC ENERGY I'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED.

YOU NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT KILLING THE WENDIGO, LOGAN...BUT YOU DID THINK ABOUT KILLING ME.

BUT YOU LET ME GET CLOSE TO YOU, *ANYWAY.*

YOU LET ME IN YOUR *HOUSE.*

WHY?

BECAUSE I NEED A WEAPON.

SURPRISE, CHARLIE...YOU'RE A BASTARD, *TOO.*

WELCOME TO THE CLUB.

SNFF

SEVEN O'CLOCK HIGH. ONE MAN WITH A RIFLE.

THREE OTHERS-- OOF!

K-POW!

HRRRGHH--!

YOU KNOW THE DRILL...

SNIKT!

SNIKT!

BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA

THANKS.

LOGAN, WAIT!

K-POW!

LEAVE THAT ONE ALIVE.

OKAY, BUT...YOU BETTER HURRY.

LOOKS LIKE HE *SPRUNG* A *LEAK.*

I'LL- *KOFF!*-NEVER TELL YOU...

YOU ALREADY HAVE.

FUMP!

SHAW'S BOYS?

YES.

SENT TO KILL ME.

GUESS THEY DIDN'T EXPECT ME *BACK* SO SOON.

OR, *HE DID.*

SEBASTIAN SHAW IS PLANNING *A COUP D'ETAT OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB.*

AND HE'S INCORPORATED *YOU--AND,* OBVIOUSLY, *DAKEN*--INTO HIS PLANS.

"WHEN THE PSI-SHIELD GENERATOR INSIDE THE HELLFIRE CLUB WENT DOWN, I IMMEDIATELY FELT SHAW'S CORRUPT RESONANCE WITHIN EVERY CHAMBER.

"NOT LONG AGO, THERE WAS AN EMBITTERED BATTLE OVER WHO SHOULD REPLACE SUNSPOT AS LORD IMPERIAL...

"MADE MORESO BY SHAW, WHO STOKED THE ARGUMENT BY FIRST SUPPORTING ONE SIDE...

"...THEN THE OTHER.

"HE'S DONE EVERYTHING HE CAN TO PRODUCE THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF ANIMOSITY AND DISTRUST..."

...AND, IN DOING SO, HE'S CUTTING A CLEAR PATH TO THE THRONE.

THAT EXPLAINS WHY HE THREW ME AT THE INNER CIRCLE...

YES, BUT IT DOESN'T REVEAL HIS INTENTIONS FOR DAKEN.

YEAH, IT DOES AN' YOU KNOW IT.

SHAW NEEDS A WEAPON TO BACK UP HIS AUTHORITY-- JUST LIKE YOU DID, BACK THEN.

BUT YOU KNOW EXACTLY HOW TO TAKE THAT WEAPON AWAY, DON'T YOU? AN' IF MY ASKIN' WASN'T ENOUGH FOR YOU TO DO IT, THEN THIS'D BETTER BE.

I CAN'T--!

NO, YOU CAN'T *CHANGE* DAKEN--JUST LIKE YOU COULDN'T CHANGE *ME.*

BUT YOU CAN CHANGE WHAT *SIDE* HE'S ON BY JUST...

...*BLOCKING*, EFFECTIVELY, ALL OF YOUR *EMBEDDED PROGRAMMING.*

WHEN YOU WAKE, YOU WILL REMEMBER ONLY THAT YOU'VE FORGOTTEN.

BUT IF I DON'T REMEMBER *WHO I AM...*

YOU *WILL* REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE, LOGAN:

YOU WILL REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE AN *X-MAN.*

AND THAT IS THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS.

TO BE CONTINUED IN X-MEN: LEGACY #218